

IN THE CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. – 43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) A method for choosing a business model to solve a selected business problem, the method comprising:

(a) describing a plurality of computer-evolvable business models, each describing operations of a business for solving said business problem, each having an ability to be in competition with other computer-evolvable business models for solving the said business problem, and each having an ability to respond to a customer model patronizing it by sending at least one value to the said customer model;

(b) describing a business-model environment comprising a business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models and further containing at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more of said evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, based at least in part upon at least one evolvable characteristic ~~characteristics~~ of the said evolvable business models;

(c) determining an operational performance of each said evolvable business model in the said business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models having an ability to be in competition with other evolvable business models, and further containing at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more of said evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, by simulating (i) the said plurality of evolvable business models, (ii) the said at least one customer model, and (iii) one or more interactions between evolvable business models and customer models in which at least one of said customer models chooses to patronize at least one of said evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, based at least in part upon at least one evolvable characteristic ~~characteristics~~ of the said evolvable business models, and at least one of said patronized evolvable business models responds by sending at least one value to the said at least one customer model;

25 (d) generating a next plurality of evolvable business models from the said plurality of evolvable business models by performing an evolutionary method including

(i) for at least one of said evolvable business models, determining said model's fitness based at least in part upon the operational performance of the said evolvable business model in the said business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models
30 having an ability to be in competition with other evolvable business models, and further containing at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more of said plurality of evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, wherein the said operational performance of the said evolvable business model is affected by at least one evolvable characteristic of one or more other of the said plurality of evolvable business
35 models in the said business ecosystem,

(ii) selecting at least one of said evolvable business models based at least in part upon the said at least one model's determined fitness, and

(iii) transforming the at least one selected evolvable business model into new evolvable business models incorporating at least one element of said at least one selected
40 evolvable business model, by applying at least one genetic operator;

(e) repeating steps (c) and (d) at least one time, each said repetition of step (c) simulating the plurality of evolvable business models resulting from the previous repetition of step (d); and

(f) choosing the business model for solving the selected business problem based at
45 least in part upon the determined fitness of the said business model.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein an evolvable business model comprises at least one building block.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the said at least one building block is chosen from a group consisting of:

at least one value proposition building block, each said value proposition building block comprising a description of at least one of: natures of one or more goods or services provided, qualities of the said goods or services provided, customers for said goods and services provided, relations with other business models, and marketing to customers or business models;

at least one operational approach building block, each said operational approach building block comprising a description of at least one of: inputs needed for one or more goods or services provided, technology employed to produce said goods or services provided, and capital and labor needed to produce said goods or services provided; and

at least one revenue mechanism building block, each said revenue mechanism building block comprising a description of at least one of: a margin or an amount per transaction, a margin or an amount per unit time, a margin or an amount per unit volume, a transaction pricing mechanism, a subscription pricing mechanism, a flat rate pricing mechanism, and a membership fee pricing mechanism.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein each evolvable business model has associated with it a performance model.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the said performance model comprises a financial model.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48, wherein the said financial model determines at least one of revenue, profit, market share and market capitalization.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the business ecosystem further comprises at least one supplier model which has the ability to interact with at least one of said plurality of evolvable business models, and wherein determining an operational

performance of an evolvable business model further comprises simulating the said at least
5 one supplier model, and one or more interactions between evolvable business models,
supplier models and/or customer models.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said at least one genetic
operator comprises a cross-over operator which transforms at least two parent evolvable
business models into at least one new evolvable business model by combining
characteristics of both parent business models into characteristics of the at least one new
evolvable business model.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein said at least one genetic
operator comprises a mutation operator which transforms a parent evolvable business model
into a new evolvable business model by modifying a characteristic of the parent business
model.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein an evolvable business model
comprises a description of at least one of inputs to a business, values output from the said
business, transformations of inputs into said business to values output from said business at
least in part by the use of capital and labor, and at least one pricing model for said business.

54. (Currently Amended) A method for choosing a business model to solve a selected
business problem, the method comprising:

(a) describing a plurality of computer-evolvable business models, each describing
operations of a business for solving said business problem, each having an ability to be in
5 competition with other computer-evolvable business models for solving the said business
problem, each having an ability to respond to a customer model patronizing it by sending at
least one value to the said customer model, each having associated with it a performance

model comprising a financial model which has the ability to determine at least one of revenue, profit, market share and market capitalization, and each comprising at least one
10 building block chosen from a group consisting of value proposition building blocks, operational approach building blocks, and revenue mechanism building blocks;

(b) describing a business-model environment comprising a business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models, further containing at least one supplier model having an ability to interact with at least one of said plurality of evolvable
15 business models, and further containing at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more of said evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, based at least in part upon at least one evolvable characteristic~~characteristics~~ of the said evolvable business models;

(c) determining an operational performance of each said evolvable business model in
20 the said business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models having an ability to be in competition with other evolvable business models, and further containing at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more of said evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, by simulating (i) the said plurality of evolvable business models, (ii) the said at least one supplier model, (iii) the said
25 at least one customer model, and (iv) one or more interactions between evolvable business models, supplier models and/or customer models in which at least one of said customer models chooses to patronize at least one of said evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, based at least in part upon at least one evolvable characteristic~~characteristics~~ of the said evolvable business models, and at least one of said
30 patronized evolvable business models responds by sending at least one value to the said at least one customer model;

(d) generating a next plurality of evolvable business models from the said plurality of evolvable business models by performing an evolutionary method including

(i) for at least one of said evolvable business models, determining said model's
35 fitness based at least in part upon the operational performance of the said evolvable business

model in the said business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models having an ability to be in competition with other evolvable business models, and further containing at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more of said plurality of evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, wherein the
40 said operational performance of the said evolvable business model is affected by at least one evolvable characteristic of one or more other of the said plurality of evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem,

(ii) selecting at least one of said evolvable business models based at least in part upon the said at least one model's determined fitness, and

45 (iii) transforming the at least one selected evolvable business model into new evolvable business models incorporating at least one element of said at least one selected evolvable business model, by applying at least one genetic operator comprising a cross-over operator which transforms at least two parent evolvable business models into at least one new evolvable business model by combining characteristics of both parent business models
50 into characteristics of the at least one new evolvable business model, and/or comprising a mutation operator which transforms a parent evolvable business model into a new evolvable business model by modifying a characteristic of the parent business model;

(e) repeating steps (c) and (d) at least one time, each said repetition of step (c) simulating the plurality of evolvable business models resulting from the previous repetition
55 of step (d), and

(f) choosing the business model for solving the selected business problem based at least in part upon the determined fitness of the said business model.

55. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable signals stored thereon that define instructions which, as a result of being executed in a computer system having a user interface including a display and an input device, instruct the computer system to perform a method for choosing a business model to solve a selected business
5 problem, the method comprising:

(a) describing a plurality of computer-evolvable business models, each describing operations of a business for solving said business problem, each having an ability to be in competition with other computer-evolvable business models for solving the said business problem, and each having an ability to respond to a customer model patronizing it by
10 sending at least one value to the said customer model;

(b) describing a business-model environment comprising a business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models and further containing at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more of said evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, based at least in part upon at least one
15 evolvable characteristic~~characteristics~~ of the said evolvable business models;

(c) determining an operational performance of each said evolvable business model in the said business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models having an ability to be in competition with other evolvable business models, and further containing at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more of said
20 evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, by simulating (i) the said plurality of evolvable business models, (ii) the said at least one customer model, and (iii) one or more interactions between evolvable business models and customer models in which at least one of said customer models chooses to patronize at least one of said evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, based at least in part upon at least one
25 evolvable characteristic~~characteristics~~ of the said evolvable business models, and at least one of said patronized evolvable business models responds by sending at least one value to the said at least one customer model;

(d) generating a next plurality of evolvable business models from the said plurality of evolvable business models by performing an evolutionary method including

30 (i) for at least one of said evolvable business models, determining said model's fitness based at least in part upon the operational performance of the said evolvable business model in the said business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models having an ability to be in competition with other evolvable business models, and further

35 containing at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more
of said plurality of evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, wherein the
said operational performance of the said evolvable business model is affected by at least one
evolvable characteristic of one or more other of the said plurality of evolvable business
models in the said business ecosystem,

(ii) selecting at least one of said evolvable business models based at least in part
40 upon the said at least one model's determined fitness, and

(iii) transforming the at least one selected evolvable business model into new
evolvable business models incorporating at least one element of said at least one selected
evolvable business model, by applying at least one genetic operator;

(e) repeating steps (c) and (d) at least one time, each said repetition of step (c)
45 simulating the plurality of evolvable business models resulting from the previous repetition
of step (d); and

(f) choosing the business model for solving the selected business problem based at
least in part upon the determined fitness of the said business model.

50 56. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein an
evolvable business model comprises at least one building block.

57. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to 56, wherein the said
at least one building block is chosen from a group consisting of:

at least one value proposition building block, each said value proposition building
block comprising a description of at least one of: natures of one or more goods or services
5 provided, qualities of the said goods or services provided, customers for said goods and
services provided, relations with other business models, and marketing to customers or
business models;

at least one operational approach building block, each said operational approach building block comprising a description of at least one of: inputs needed for one or more goods or services provided, technology employed to produce said goods or services provided, and capital and labor needed to produce said goods or services provided; and

at least one revenue mechanism building block, each said revenue mechanism building block comprising a description of at least one of: a margin or an amount per transaction, a margin or an amount per unit time, a margin or an amount per unit volume, a transaction pricing mechanism, a subscription pricing mechanism, a flat rate pricing mechanism, and a membership fee pricing mechanism.

58. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein each evolvable business model has associated with it a performance model.

59. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 58, wherein the said performance model comprises a financial model.

60. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 59, wherein the said financial model determines at least one of revenue, profit, market share and market capitalization.

61. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein the business ecosystem further comprises at least one supplier model which has the ability to interact with at least one of said plurality of evolvable business models, and wherein determining an operational performance of an evolvable business model further comprises simulating the said at least one supplier model, and one or more interactions between evolvable business models, supplier models and/or customer models.

62. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein said at least one genetic operator comprises a cross-over operator which transforms at least two parent evolvable business models into at least one new evolvable business model by combining characteristics of both parent business models into characteristics of the at least one new evolvable business model.

63. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein said at least one genetic operator comprises a mutation operator which transforms a parent evolvable business model into a new evolvable business model by modifying a characteristic of the parent business model.

64. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 55, wherein an evolvable business model comprises a description of at least one of inputs to a business, values output from the said business, transformations of inputs into said business to values output from said business at least in part by the use of capital and labor, and at least one pricing model for said business.

65. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable signals stored thereon that define instructions which, as a result of being executed in a computer system having a user interface including a display and an input device, instruct the computer system to perform a method for choosing a business model to solve a selected business
5 problem, the method comprising:

(a) describing a plurality of computer-evolvable business models, each describing operations of a business for solving said business problem, each having an ability to be in competition with other computer-evolvable business models for solving the said business problem, each having an ability to respond to a customer model patronizing it by sending at
10 least one value to the said customer model, each having associated with it a performance model comprising a financial model which has the ability to determine at least one of

revenue, profit, market share and market capitalization, and each comprising at least one building block chosen from a group consisting of value proposition building blocks, operational approach building blocks, and revenue mechanism building blocks;

15 (b) describing a business-model environment comprising a business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models, further containing at least one supplier model having an ability to interact with at least one of said plurality of evolvable business models, and further containing at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more of said evolvable business models in the said business
20 ecosystem, based at least in part upon at least one evolvable characteristic~~characteristics~~ of the said evolvable business models;

(c) determining an operational performance of each said evolvable business model in the said business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models having an ability to be in competition with other evolvable business models, and further containing
25 at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more of said evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, by simulating (i) the said plurality of evolvable business models, (ii) the said at least one supplier model, (iii) the said at least one customer model, and (iv) one or more interactions between evolvable business models, supplier models and/or customer models in which at least one of said customer
30 models chooses to patronize at least one of said evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, based at least in part upon at least one evolvable
characteristic~~characteristics~~ of the said evolvable business models, and at least one of said patronized evolvable business models responds by sending at least one value to the said at least one customer model;

35 (d) generating a next plurality of evolvable business models from the said plurality of evolvable business models by performing an evolutionary method including

(i) for at least one of said evolvable business models, determining said model's fitness based at least in part upon the operational performance of the said evolvable business model in the said business ecosystem containing said plurality of evolvable business models

40 having an ability to be in competition with other evolvable business models, and further
containing at least one customer model having an ability to choose to patronize one or more
of said plurality of evolvable business models in the said business ecosystem, wherein the
said operational performance of the said evolvable business model is affected by at least one
evolvable characteristic of one or more other of the said plurality of evolvable business
45 models in the said business ecosystem,

(ii) selecting at least one of said evolvable business models based at least in part
upon the said at least one model's determined fitness, and

(iii) transforming the at least one selected evolvable business model into new
evolvable business models incorporating at least one element of said at least one selected
50 evolvable business model, by applying at least one genetic operator comprising a cross-over
operator which transforms at least two parent evolvable business models into at least one
new evolvable business model by combining characteristics of both parent business models
into characteristics of the at least one new evolvable business model, and/or comprising a
mutation operator which transforms a parent evolvable business model into a new evolvable
55 business model by modifying a characteristic of the parent business model;

(e) repeating steps (c) and (d) at least one time, each said repetition of step (c)
simulating the plurality of evolvable business models resulting from the previous repetition
of step (d), and

(f) choosing the business model for solving the selected business problem based at
60 least in part upon the determined fitness of the said business model.